

B. Election/Restrictions

Applicant hereby elects the claims of Group IV, namely claims 2424-2449, 2457-2458, and 2460-2461, drawn to a method of treating a coal formation including increasing the permeability, without traverse. Applicant reserves the right to file divisional applications capturing the subject matter of the non-elected species.

C. Election of Species

In item 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner states: "Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species of heater and a single disclosed species of wellbore pattern (embodied in figures 3; 8; 9; 44-54; 61; and 62)...." Applicant respectfully submits that figures 55-57 depict wellbore pattern embodiments.

Applicant elects the species of heater described at least in claim 2430. The generic name of the elected species is: "natural distributed combustor." Natural distributed combustors are illustrated at least in figures 10-15.

Applicant elects the species of wellbore pattern described at least in claims 2460 and 2461. The generic name of the elected species is: "triangular pattern." A triangular pattern is illustrated at least in figure 57.

D. Conclusion

Based on the above, Applicant submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.